

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. MaryAnn Diorio is an award-winning author, novelist, and poet. She writes novels, novellas, short stories, and poetry for both adults and children. She is also a fine artist and works in oils, acrylics, pastels, colored pencil, and pen-and-ink.

In 1979, MaryAnn accepted the call of God on her life to become a writer. Since then, she has written several hundred articles, short stories, and poems that have appeared in over 100 national magazines, newspapers, and journals, including *The Saturday Evening Post*, Billy Graham's *Decision Magazine*, *The Press of Atlantic City*, and *Human Events*. She also served as head writer for a regional television series entitled *Teen Machine*.

MaryAnn's popular syndicated column, [Winning with the Word](#), was published for several years in newspapers throughout the state of New Jersey. It is now published via the Internet. To subscribe to this free weekly devotional, [click here](#).

MaryAnn has also served as a syndicated columnist for the AMY Foundation Internet Syndicate. She has authored five books: [A Christmas Homecoming](#) (Harbourlight Books, 2012), [Selling Yourself On You: Discovering God's Will for Your Life](#), [A Student's Guide to Nathaniel Hawthorne](#), [A Student's Guide to Herman Melville](#), [A Student's Guide to Mark Twain](#), and the e-book [You Were Made for Greatness](#), and has been a contributor to seven others: [My Turn to Care](#) (Thomas Nelson), [Religious Writer's Marketplace](#) (Abingdon Press), [The Young Generation Book of Short Stories](#), [Rest Stops for Busy Moms](#), [Rest Stops for Teachers](#) (Broadman & Holman), [The Heart of a Teacher](#) (Bethany House), [God Answers Moms' Prayers](#) (God Allows U-Turns series, Harvest House, 2005), and [Mastering the Art of Success](#) (Insight Publishing, 2011). MaryAnn has also authored five booklets: [Dating Etiquette for Christian Teens](#), [Balancing Your Budget God's Way](#), [Making Your Marriage Work](#), [Writing Fiction for Children](#), and [Writing Non-Fiction for Children](#).

In 1990, MaryAnn won the \$4000 Third Place Award in the Annual AMY Writing Awards Program for her article entitled "From Feminism to Freedom." Her short story entitled "The Birthmark" placed fifth in the 1990 National Writers' Club Short Story Contest and ranked in the top 100 in the 1990 Writer's Digest Short Story Contest. She has also received an Honorable Mention award from TAKE ONE Radio Theatre for a radio script. In 1992, she was awarded the Second Place Prize in the Novel Category at the St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference. In 2006, she placed third in the ACFW Genesis Contest Women's Fiction category for her novel *Sicilian Sunrise*. In 2009, her novel placed second in the Inspirational Category of the East Texas RWA *Southern Heat* Contest. In 2011, her novel, under the new title of *The Madonna of Pisano*, won First Place in the Inspirational Category of the Colorado RWA *Heart of the Rockies* contest and

First Place in the Inspirational Category of the Space Coast *Launching a Star* contest. It also placed Second in the Historical Category of the 2011 Romance Writers' Ink *Where the Magic Begins* contest.

MaryAnn has appeared on several radio and television talk shows, including the nation-wide LeSea Alive program hosted by the late Dr. Lester Sumrall, *By the Book* hosted by Debbie Williams, and *Women of Grace* hosted by Kelly McCausey. She has also been interviewed on WDAS (Philadelphia), WIBG (South Jersey), and WNNN (South Jersey). Articles about her writing have appeared in *The Press of Atlantic City*, *The Daily Journal*, *The Millville News*, *The Bridgeton Evening News*, and *The Times Herald* of her hometown of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

MaryAnn has served as a distinguished judge for the annual AMY Writing Awards Program, the annual Capitol Writers Writing Contest (Washington, DC area), the annual American Christian Fiction Writers' Genesis Contest, and the ACFW *First Impressions* Contest. She is listed in *International Who's Who*, *Who's Who in the East*, *International Authors and Writers Who's Who*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, *The World Who's Who of Women*, *Who's Who in the World*, *The International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*, *The National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in Finance and Business*. Most important of all, MaryAnn rejoices that she is listed in *The Lamb's Book of Life*!

A graduate of the University of Kansas where she earned the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in French and Comparative Literature, MaryAnn also holds the Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree in Christian Counseling from Christian Leadership University. She has taught Italian at the University of Kansas, French at the Pitman High School in Pitman, New Jersey, English, French, Spanish, and Creative Writing at the Fairton Christian Center Academy in Fairton, New Jersey, French and Italian at Cumberland County College in Vineland, New Jersey, and Writing and Public Speaking at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. She also served as Assistant Professor of Italian and Spanish at Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ, as Adjunct Professor of Biblical Business Principles at New Life Bible College in Millville, NJ, as Adjunct Professor of Writing at Nottingham-Trent University (United Kingdom), and as Adjunct Online Professor of French at Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA. She is currently Online Adjunct Professor of Fiction Writing at Regent University.

MaryAnn has served on the faculty of several writers' conferences, including the *Philadelphia Writers' Conference*, the *St. Davids Christian Writers Conference*, the *Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers' Conference*, the *Sandy Cove Christian Writers' Conference*, and *The New Jersey Society of Christian Writers' Seminar*. She is a graduate of the three-year program of *Rhema Correspondence Bible School*, a diplomate of *The Institute of Children's Literature*, and a graduate of CLASS (Christian Leaders, Authors, and Speakers

Services).

In 1984, MaryAnn founded Daystar Communications, later known as Daystar Ministries International. She ran this ministry until 2005, at which point it was incorporated into MaryAnn's other ministries. In 2011, she changed the name to [MaryAnn Diorio Ministries](#).

MaryAnn owns and operates [TopNotch Communications Group, LLC](#), a multi-service firm with three divisions that provide [writing](#), [coaching](#), and [translation](#) services for individuals and businesses. MaryAnn is also a Certified Life Coach, a Certified Behavioral Consultant, and a Certified Biblical Counselor as well as a gifted Bible teacher and speaker whose heart's desire is to help people become all that God created them to be.

In her Life Coaching practice, MaryAnn helps people—especially writers, artists, and business owners—define their mission in life and fulfill it. You can learn more about MaryAnn's coaching services at www.TopNotchLifeandCareerCoaching.com.

Dr. MaryAnn is a member in good standing of the following organizations:

- [American Christian Fiction Writers \(ACFW\)](#)
- [Faith, Hope, and Love Chapter of Romance Writers of America \(RWA\)](#)
- [Romance Writers of America \(RWA\)](#)
- [New Jersey Chapter of Romance Writers of America \(NJRWA\)](#)
- [Advanced Writers and Speakers Association \(AWSA\)](#)
- [The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators \(SCBWI\)](#)
- [The New Jersey Society of Christian Writers \(NJSCW\) \(Founder & Director\)](#)
- [The New Jersey Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators \(NJSCBWI\)](#)
- [Christian Coaches Network](#)
- [The Better Business Bureau](#)
- [The National Association of Scholars](#)
- [The Professional Association of Résumé Writers & Career Coaches](#)
- [The National Association of Résumé Writers](#)
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For all that God has done and continues to do in her life, MaryAnn gives Him all the praise and all the glory!